

IPAC Diseases and Conditions Table: Recommendations for Management of Patients, Residents & Clients

Suspected/Known Disease or Microorganism Varicella Zoster Virus: Herpes zoster (Shingles) – Exposed Susceptible Contact	
Clinical Presentation: Asymptomatic if simply exposed. May develop fluid-filled vesicles	
Infectious Substances If lesions develop, lesion drainage, respiratory secretions and exhaled droplets and particles	How it is Transmitted Direct Contact, Indirect Contact and Droplets and Particles
Precautions Needed*	
Acute Care	<div> Airborne Precautions 8 days after first contact and until 21 days after last contact with case (extend to 28 days if given VZIG) </div> <div> Airborne & Contact Precautions If lesions develop see Chickenpox known case </div>
Residential Care	<div> Airborne Precautions 8 days after first contact and until 21 days after last contact with case (extend to 28 days if given VZIG) </div> <div> Airborne & Contact Precautions If lesions develop see Chickenpox known case </div>
Home & Community	<div> Airborne Precautions 8 days after first contact and until 21 days after last contact with case (extend to 28 days if given VZIG) </div> <div> Airborne & Contact Precautions If lesions develop see Chickenpox known case </div>
Duration of Precautions From 8 days after first contact until 21 days after last contact (or 28 days if patient received VZIG)	
Incubation Period 10 – 21 days	Period of Communicability Until all skin lesions have crusted and dried (if infected)
Comments *Precautions required are in addition to Routine Practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If Varicella Zoster Immune Globulin (VZIG) indicated, administer within 96 hours (can be administered up to 10 day post exposure) An exposed susceptible person will develop chickenpox (varicella), not shingles (herpes zoster). Susceptible contact refers to exposed person who has no evidence of varicella zoster virus (VZV) immunity Refer to the VZV Chickenpox (Varicella-Zoster) and Shingles (Herpes Zoster) Guideline (exposure management). Notify local Infection Preventionist if VZV exposure occurred in a healthcare setting 	